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CHINA IN THE BIBLE

We are indebted to the Rev. M. A. Hopkins for a copy of K. S. Lee's 80 page booklet on China in the Bible. The foreword by the author was signed in Shanghai April 13, 1957, but the book was published in Hong Kong. -- Question: Did he have any trouble getting the manuscript out from Shanghai to Hong Kong?

Our readers will remember K. S. Lee as the owner and manager of the one time Christian Broadcasting Station in Shanghai. He states in the Preface that he first got the idea for the book from Lee Jui, a well-known Hankow merchant.

He believes that the Chinese are descendants of Shem, that they are referred to frequently in the Bible, and that the Wise Men from the East were really from China. Either the name or the Biblical record suggests the descendants of four sons of Shem, but all such indication is lacking for the fifth son Lud, and so by a process of elimination he settles upon Lud as the ancestor of the Chinese. This conclusion he confirms by this observation: "His name is the only monosyllable in the list and the Chinese language is monosyllabic, such as Shem, Lud, Chen, Li, etc." (No more far-fetched than many inferences I have seen in Biblical criticism.)

The Wise Men from the East were Chinese. During the Han Dynasty Sian was the capital, and that is directly east of Jerusalem, in almost exactly the same latitude. And when they arrived at Bethlehem, they "did exactly what the Chinese people do when they kowtow to their emperor. 'They presented unto him gifts,' thus again showing their Chinese custom, for the Chinese people from time immemorial have always brought presents to the new born babe the first time they come to see him. Furthermore, they did much better than the Roman Catholics, for they did not worship Mary, the so-called 'mother of God'."

He concludes with this poignant prayer: "Lord, thou art the Lord God of Shem; have mercy on us, the numerous offspring of our father Shem. Lord, raise up prophets among the Chinese people who may be courageous enough and clean enough for Thy use for the salvation of lost souls in this vast nation for the glory of Jesus Christ the Lord and Saviour. In His name we ask. Amen."

Since the above was written we have received word that K. S. Lee died in Shanghai on March 15.

SUNDAY IN PEKING

Reuters describes a typical Sunday in Peking nowadays in a May 3 dispatch that begins as

Issued bi-weekly to keep mission boards and missionaries informed on Christian work in China. Information from Chinese church magazines and other Chinese sources is passed on as objectively as possible, with a minimum of interpretation. When interpretation is necessary, it is enclosed in parentheses as the comment of the editor. ANNUAL RATES: Domestic, $2.00; Overseas, Firstclass $4.00, Secondclass $3.00. Airmail $5.00 in 15¢ zone, $7.00 in 25¢ zone.

follows: "China's Communist rulers have repudiated the Christian Sabbath, but for most of Peking's five million inhabitants Sunday is the jolliest day of a lack-luster week."

From some source the reporter was informed that there are 20,000 Christians enrolled in the capital's 80 churches, - an average of 250 members per church. But not more than a quarter of these are to be found in church on an average Sunday morning. There are also comparatively few children in Sunday School, for Sunday is the time for meetings of the Pioneers, a Communist movement for boys and girls. All under 13 are encouraged to join the Pioneers, whose activities range from elementary classes in Marxism to campaigns for stamping out the four evils - rats, mice, sparrows and mosquitoes.

Many housewives work in factories and offices, and so for them Sunday is shopping day. Some shopkeepers say that they do more business on Sunday than in all the rest of the week. University students work on Sundays at digging roads, ditches and reservoirs, planting trees, etc. Street committees often call meetings of the street residents for Sunday morning, after which some of the residents are kept busy writing posters and mural newspapers.

If the Communists do not recognize the sanctity of the Sabbath, they at least appreciate its utility. A letter in a recent Peking Daily proposed that Sunday be abolished, in order to increase factory output. The editor replied: "I admire your revolutionary enthusiasm, but your plan lacks foresight. It would endanger the health of the workers. They need their Sunday off."

CATHOLIC NEWS

As aftermath of the consecration of two bishops in Hankow on April 13, as reported in the last Bulletin, 82 Catholic priests and representatives of the church who had gathered in that city from all over China met on April 17, four days later, and passed a resolution supporting the consecration and protesting against Vatican opposition. They were from Peking, Shanghai, 20 different provinces and one autonomous region. The resolution warned that "the patriotic Catholics of China must be on guard, for the Holy See will not be reconciled to its defeat," and added that "they must not be fooled by any barbaric, unreasonable, hypocritical or shameless tricks by the Holy See."

It is reported that elections of new bishops have also taken place in Shanghai, Chengtu, Canton and other dioceses, and now that the consecration break-through has been established, we may expect to see further services of consecration in these cities.

RNS in an April 24 bulletin calls it "an intensified drive to set up a schismatic Catholic Church completely free of Vatican control." However, the Patriotic Associations have at least thus far been endeavoring to draw a line between religious and patriotic questions, and have declared their independence only in regard to the latter. They will probably continue to give nominal adherence on religious matters to the Vatican, unless the latter forces the issue by wholesale excommunications.

Will the Vatican thus force the issue? The Catholic International Fides News-Service comments on the news of the consecration as follows: "We are confronted with an act of extreme seriousness; serious not only because of the canonical sanctions which the responsible persons would unfortunately incur according to the norm of the Decree of the Holy Office; but also because it is a new sign, particularly clear and indicative, of the dolorous conditions under which the Clergy and Catholics of China are living."

SIGNIFICANCE OF CHINA'S ECONOMIC PROGRESS

A study by a competent observer, as yet unpublished, has been made of the economic progress in China under the Communist Government, and the possible implications of this progress for the backward nations of Asia and Africa.

The writer reaches the conclusion that China is an increasingly important participant in the economic competition between the Communist bloc and the West. It is true that there are now serious and complicated problems confronting Peking in its domestic economy and in its balance of payments, and that this may impose limitations for the future, but the rate of growth to date

as been very impressive. During the first five year plan which has just ended, national income increased 50%, total national output 60%, modern industrial output 120%, and agricultural output 25%. There have been especially notable gains in key heavy industries. The Communists hope of course to continue this rate of growth during the second five year plan, but there is a serious lag in agricultural output, due largely to deliberate neglect of agricultural needs in the first five year plan, and this may inhibit growth during the second period.

They are working hard to correct this weakness. We have already pointed out the great irrigation efforts of the past winter. To this is being added a greatly increased emphasis upon the manufacture of fertilizers and of more modern tools, but whether this new emphasis will be in time to prevent a general slowing down in the rate of progress for the country as a whole remains to be seen. However they have made more rapid progress during recent years than any other major underdeveloped nation. The rate of growth has been much faster than in India, and there is even the possibility that they may overtake Japan during the next decade. This fact cannot help but have great psychological impact upon the other underdeveloped nations of Asia and Africa.

It is true of course that they have paid a high price for this economic progress. They have had to submit to totalitarian rule, to the suppression of individual freedom, to a revolutionary upheaval of Chinese society, to enforced austerity and economic hardship. The question is whether other nations will be impressed more by the high price to be paid or by the economic progress attained.

Most of China's foreign trade is with the Communist bloc, but since 1956 the proportion of trade with non-Communist nations has been rising. This is mostly with the other nations of Asia and Africa. The total trade of Communist China with the free world was greater in 1956 than Nationalist China's world trade in 1948.

THE NEXT STEP IN AGRICULTURE

A New York Times dispatch from Hong Kong of May 3 indicates that the Communists are now ready to move on to the next stage of agricultural organization -- the state farm. There are now only 710 state farms, cultivating about 3,300,000 acres, but by the end of the second five-year plan this area will be tripled.

The state farm organization is found particularly useful for newly reclaimed lands, and so its use will be especially marked in Sinkiang, Tsinghai and other new areas. The Tsinghai Daily News, published in Sining, reported recently that the settler method had not worked, - a large proportion of the settlers brought in from Honan, Hopei and other regions had left the reclaimed lands and drifted into nearby cities or returned to their home districts. In general they had two complaints: they found life there too hard, and they were discriminated against by the local inhabitants. The Government expects that state farm workers will be more easily controlled.

The Peking Radio announced on May 3 that during the first five-year plan the proportion of irrigated land to total arable land had increased from 16.3% to 51%.

As indicated in the previous article, increased farm production will have a much bigger place in the second five-year plan than in the first. There were food shortages in various areas last year, and this is said to have caused the Government considerable concern. However, the four southern provinces of Kwangsi, Kwangtung, Yunnan and Kiangsi have reported a bumper winter crop of two and a half million tons, said to be 44% greater than the year before.

In Northeast China the Government is ordering the planting of maize instead of millet, as the former is said to have a yield from 33 to 45% greater.

MISSIONARY NEWS

Recent deaths: Rev. C. B. Rappe, formerly with the Methodist Mission in West China, on ril 3; Dr. F. W. Goddard, formerly Baptist missionary in Shaohing, East China (He was the grandson of two pioneer missionaries, and wrote the story of the Dean and Goddard families in